Decision for DOI-BLM-NM-P010-2013-509 DNA

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the Roswell Resource Management Plan, as amended, and was analyzed in **EA-NM-060-99-0164**, August, 1999. The Term Grazing Lease will be offered for 2 Animal Units from 09/01 to 09/11 each year at 100% public land for 1 Animal Unit Month on Allotment 63222. Class of livestock will continue to be cattle.

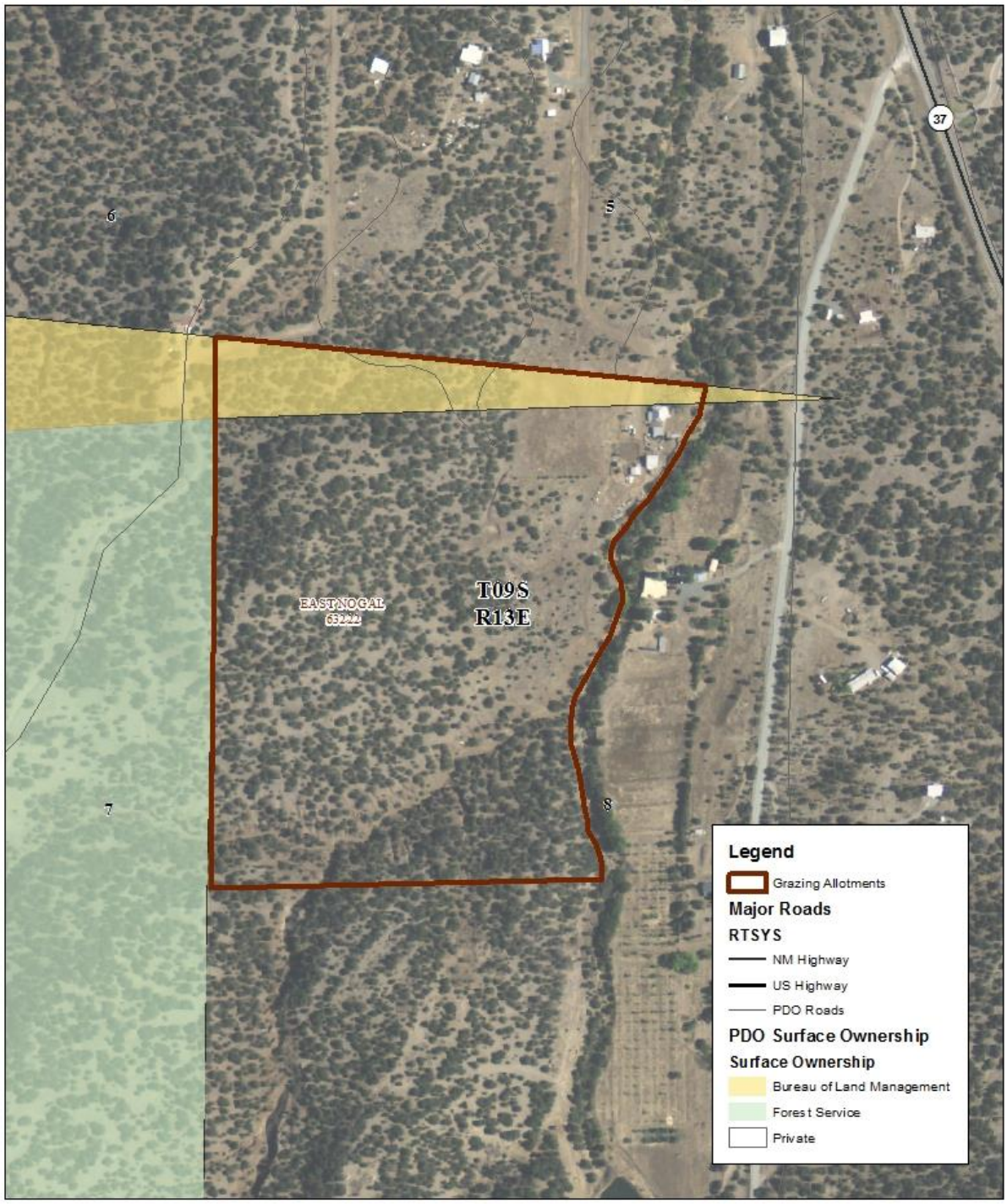
If you wish to protest this proposed decision in accordance with 43 CFR 4160.2, you are allowed 15 days to do so in person or in writing to the authorized officer, after the receipt of this decision. Please be specific in your points of protest. The protest shall be filed with the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, 2909 West 2nd, Roswell, NM 88201. This protest should specify, clearly and concisely, why you think the proposed action is in error.

In the absence of a protest within the time allowed, the above decision shall constitute my final decision. Should this notice become the final decision, you are allowed an additional 30 days within which to file an appeal for the purpose of a hearing before the Interior Board of Land Appeals, and to petition for stay of the decision pending final determination on the appeal (43 CFR 4.21 and 4.410). If a petition for stay is not requested and granted, the decision will be put into effect following the 30-day appeal period. The appeal and petition for stay should be filed with the Field Manager at the above address. The appeal should specify, clearly and concisely, why you think the decision is in error. The petition for stay should specify how you will be harmed if the stay is not granted.

/s/ Jerry Dutchover — 10/25/2013

Jerry Dutchover — Date
Assistant Field Manager
Resources

Allotment 63222 - East Nogal



Worksheet - Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management

OFFICE: Roswell Field Office

TRACKING NUMBER: DOI-BLM- NM- P010- 2013- 509 - DNA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: 63222

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE/TYPE: Term Grazing Lease

LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Lincoln County, New Mexico

APPLICANT (if any): Allottee of Allotment 63222

A. Description of the Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures

The proposed action is to authorize the grazing permit on allotment #63222 for 2 Animal Units (AUs) year-long for 1 animal unit month (AUMs) from September 1 to September 11 of each year. Class of livestock will continue to be cattle.

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

List applicable LUPs (for example, resource management plans; activity, project, management, or program plans; or applicable amendments thereto)

LUP Name* *Roswell Resource Management Plan*, **Date Approved** October 1997
LUP Name* *New Mexico Standards for Rangeland Health & Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management*, **Date Approved**: January 2001

Other document (s): *EA-NM-060-99-164, August, 1999*

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

The Roswell Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (October 1997) has been reviewed to determine if the proposed action conforms with the land use plan's Record of Decision. The Roswell Resource Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement(RMP/EIS) states a livestock grazing management goal of providing effective and efficient management of allotments to maintain, improve and monitor range conditions. The proposed action is consistent with the RMP/EIS.

C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

List by name and date all applicable NEPA documents that cover the proposed action.

EA-NM-060-99-164, August, 1999, Allotment 63222

List by name and date other documents relevant to the proposed action (e.g., biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation, and monitoring report).

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. **Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial? Documentation of answer and explanation:**

Yes. The current Proposed Action was analyzed in the above mentioned Environmental Assessment (EA). The proposed action is the same action analyzed in the existing NEPA document.

2. **Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values? Documentation of answer and explanation:**

Yes. The existing NEPA documents analyzed the proposed action as well as a reasonable range of alternatives. The EA was reviewed by identified public interests and no conflicts or concerns were identified. The same applies to the current proposed action given current concerns, interests, and resource values.

3. **Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action? Documentation of answer and explanation:**

Yes. The proposed action is the same as the proposed action as analyzed in the EA. The EA was recently completed and there is no new information or circumstances in regard to this allotment which would warrant further analysis. In support to the existing document a Rangeland Health assessments was conducted on the allotment. In the Rangeland Health assessment it was found that both Upland and Biotic Indicators, "meets" the standards of Rangeland health.

Allotments	Date RHA completed
63222	12/05/2012

4. **Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document? Documentation of answer and explanation:**

Yes, the direct, indirect and cumulative effects would be the same as stated in the existing NEPA document. The effects would not be changed considering the proposed action is the same as the proposed action as analyzed in the EA, along with no change in management.

5. **Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action? Documentation of answer and explanation:**

Yes. Preparation of the EIS for the 1997 Roswell RMP included full participation of the public and government agencies consistency review. The 1999 EA was prepared based on scoping and review from the public and other agencies.

E. Cultural Resources

Concerning cultural resources, grazing has the potential for impacts. The Roswell Field Office reviews the local office and NMCRIS databases for every grazing permit or leasing action at both the Environmental Assessment level and this Documentation of NEPA Adequacy level. In situations where sensitive sites lie within an allotment, site specific visits may be conducted to assess the presence of effects. No surveys and no sites have been reported in this allotment. The RFO conducted a sample inventory of the public lands within the allotment and discovered no Historic Properties. Currently, there is no evidence that grazing activities at this intensity have adversely impacted any cultural resources; however, unforeseen impacts may occur. Any future range improvement involving earth disturbing activities will require a cultural inventory prior to approval.

F. Visual Resource Management

Affected Environment

The affected environment for visual resources was not described in the original EA. That is therefore done here with mitigation. The setting presents a winter gray color pattern and in warm months, with foliage, a gray to gray-green color pattern. Wide-area landscape tends to be horizontal in line and flat in form, with a smooth texture.

Environmental Impacts

The basic landscape elements of form, line color and texture would not change within the allotments under any management alternative. Potential impacts to visual resources would be analyzed and mitigated as allotment management activities are proposed in the future.

Mitigation

Range facilities such as windmills and fences tend to be a translucent grey in color and blend favorably with grey and grey-green settings, To further blend favorably with the setting tanks would be low profile, not exceeding 8 feet high, and painted a flat grey or grey-green color. Other translucent colors, such as juniper green and brown can be used, as long as they blend with the setting

G. Recreation

Affected Environment

The area provides habitat for numerous game species including desert mule deer, pronghorn, mourning dove and scaled quail. Predator and feral pig hunting may occur on the allotments, as well as trapping for predators or furbearers. General sightseeing, wildlife viewing and photography are non-consumptive recreational activities that may occur.

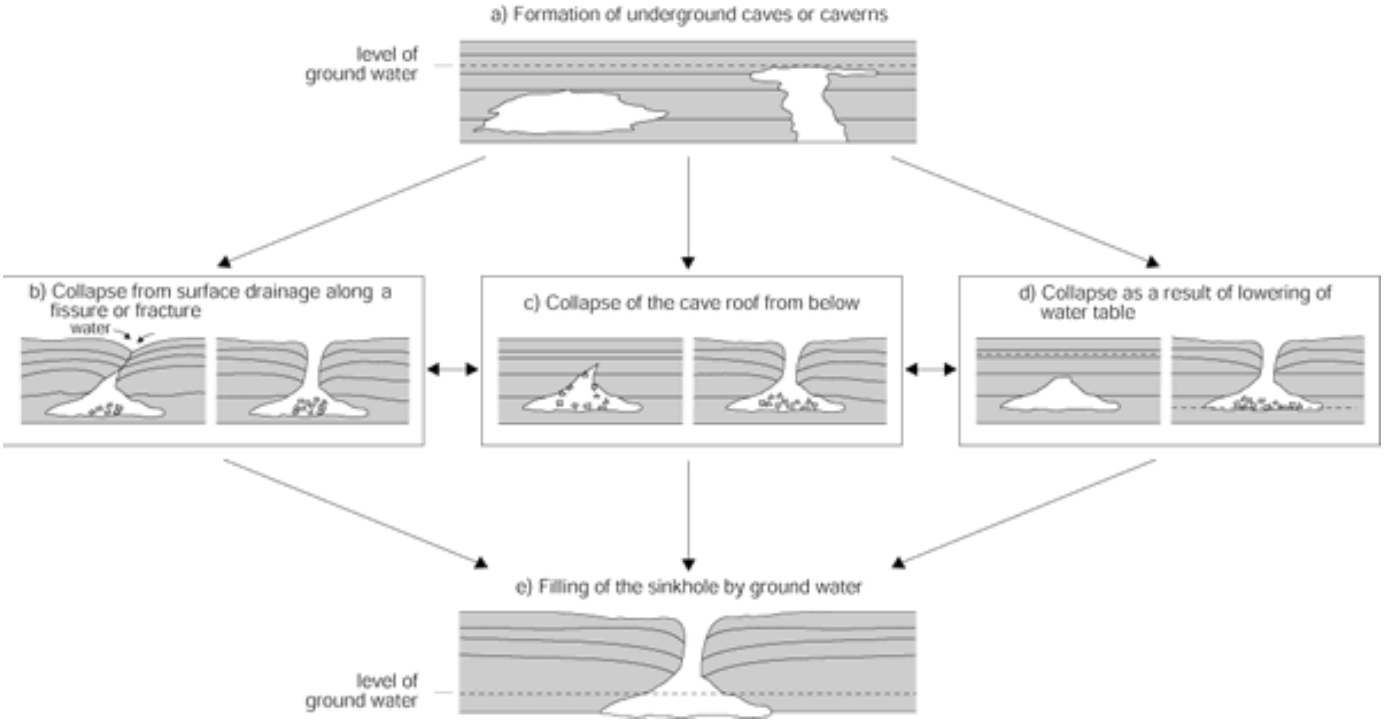
Environmental Impacts

Game and non-game wildlife species could realize long-term benefits through the improvement of habitat. It is expected that hunter success and wildlife viewing opportunities would be enhanced. Under No-Grazing Alternative, no conflicts between ranching activities and recreational use would occur on public lands. Success of hunts and non-consumptive opportunities would remain the same or slightly improve. Vandalism could still occur to range improvements. Conflicts with OHV use would continue.

H. Cave & Karst Resources

Affected Environment

The original EA did not address impacts of grazing in relation to caves and karst or mitigation measures and a statement was made that no significant caves were on the allotment when in fact the allotment contains significant cave and karst resources. The allotment is located within a designated area of *Low Karst* or Cave *Potential*. An inventory of significant cave or karst features has not been completed for public land located in this grazing allotment. There are numerous sinkholes documented in this area. Karst features are derived from dissolved limestone and gypsum from which caves and sinkholes can form, under the definition of caves in the Federal Cave Resource Protection Act of 1988.



Sinkhole Development *(http://geoinfo.nmt.edu/tour/state/bottomless_lakes/home.html)*

Wildlife

The project area provides habitat for resident bat species, primarily Townsend's Western Big-eared Bat, Small-footed Bat and Cave Myotis.

White Nose Syndrome and Identified Hibernacula

Many Roswell Field Office caves are identified or potential hibernation sites and are optimum sites for White Nose Syndrome (WNS) establishment. Any karst area north of Roswell is subject to this situation. Some of the proposed action segments are about 200 miles southwest of a confirmed WNS location near Guymon, Oklahoma. White Nose Syndrome was first documented on hibernating bats at Howe caverns in 2006 in New York and by 2013 it had moved over 2,000 miles across 21 eastern and southern states, and 5 Canadian provinces, and had killed well over 7 million bats. By spring of 2010, the DNA signature of White Nose Syndrome (WNS) had been found in a cave near Guymon, Oklahoma on cave myotis (Myotis velifer incautus), the first evidence of it infecting a western bat species. Infection is definitely bat-to-bat and humans could possibly transport the spores. Confirmed WNS is also currently located in

western Arkansas, just across Oklahoma and Texas from New Mexico. http://whitenosesyndrome.org/, http://static.whitenosesyndrome.org/sites/default/files/resource/wnshumantransmissionposter.pdf

Environmental Impacts

Livestock grazing could be affected by the presence of karst features if livestock became entrapped in deep sinkholes, which has occurred with sheep grazing in the proposed action area. This could be prevented by creating exclosures around identified karst features that pose a hazard to livestock. In the event that range improvement projects are proposed, the presence of karst features would be further analyzed in related environmental assessments.

Mitigation

✱A separate Environmental Analysis would be prepared to construct an exclosure fence.

✱In the event that range improvement projects are proposed, the presence of karst features would be further analyzed in related environmental assessments.

✱If at a later date, more significant caves or karst features are found on public land within the allotment, that cave or feature may be fenced to exclude livestock grazing and Off Highway Vehicle Use.

✱Any cave or karst feature, such as a deep sinkhole, discovered by the co-operator/contractor or any person working on the co-operator's/contractor behalf, on BLM-managed public land shall be immediately reported to the authorized officer. An evaluation of the discovery will be made by the authorized officer to determine appropriate action(s). Any decision as to the further mitigation measures will be made by the Authorized Officer after consulting with the co-operator/contractor.

✱Pursuant to Federal Register notices, all known Roswell Field Office hibernacula are temporarily closed to public entry from January 25, 2011 to no later than January 25, 2015 to monitor for the presence of White Nose Syndrome and prevent its spread if it arrives. Any proposed entry whatsoever of these caves must be formally proposed to BLM.

I. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted

NAME	TITLE	AGENCY REPRESENTED
Helen Miller	Rangeland Management Specialist	BLM
Michael McGee	Hydrologist	BLM
Jeremy Iliff	Archaeologist	BLM
Dan Baggao	Wildlife Biologist	BLM
Mike Bilbo	Cave & VRM Specialist	BLM
Glen Garnand	Planning & Environmental Coordinator	BLM
Note: Refer to the EA/EIS for a complete list of the team members participating in the preparation of the existing environmental analysis or planning documents.		

Conclusion

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitute BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.

__/s/ Jerry Dutchover__ __10/25/2013 .__
Jerry Dutchover Date
Assistant Field Manager
Resources

Note: The signed Conclusion on this worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.

Bureau of Land Management, Roswell Field Office
Environmental Assessment Checklist, DOI-BLM-NM-P010-2013-509 DNA

Resources	Not Present on Site	No Impacts	May Be Impacts	Mitigation Included	BLM Reviewer	Date
Air Quality			X	X	*/s/ Michael McGee* Hydrologist	8/20/2013
Soils			X	X		
Watershed Hydrology			X	X	SWA Spec/Hydro.	
Floodplains			X	X		
Water Quality - Surface			X	X		
Water Quality - Ground			X	X	*/s/ Michael McGee* Geologist/Hydrologist	8/20/2013
Cultural Resources	X				*/s/ Jeremy Iliff* Archaeologist 13-R-017A	7/31/2013
Native American Religious Concerns		X				
Paleontology		X			/s/ Al Collar Geologist	9/13/2013
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	X				*/s/Glen Garnand* Plan & Env. Coord.	10/1/2013
Farmlands, Prime or Unique	X				*/s/* Tate Salas Realty	9/04/2013
Rights-of-Way	X					
Invasive, Non-native Species			X	X	*/s/ Helen Miller* Range Mgmt. Spec.	10/18/2013
Vegetation			X	X		
Livestock Grazing			X	X		
Wastes, Hazardous or Solid		X			*/s/ Al Collar* Geologist	9/13/2013
Threatened or Endangered Species	X				/s/ D Baggao Biologist	9/4/2013
Special Status Species	X					
Wildlife			X	X		
Wetlands/Riparian Zones	X					
Wild and Scenic Rivers	X				*/s/ Michael J. Bilbo* Recreation, Karst, VRM	8/1/2013
Wilderness	X					
Recreation		X				
Visual Resources			X	X		
Cave/Karst			X	X		
Environmental Justice		X			*/s/* Al Collar Geologist	9/13/2013
Public Health and Safety		X				
Solid Mineral Resources		X			*/s/ Al Collar* Geologist	9/13/2013
Fluid Mineral Resources		X			*/s/John S. Simitz* Geologist	July 31, 2013